

November 9, 2007

by fax: (613) 941-6900

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

We urge you to issue a public statement unequivocally condemning Pakistan's President General Pervez Musharraf's recent dictatorial actions.

Musharraf has fired the Supreme Court, shut down the media, curtailed basic freedoms, and imprisoned democratic opposition leaders, including trade unionists.

Pakistan's Human Rights Commissioner, Asma Jahangir – under house arrest himself has asked the U.S. "to stop all support" to Musharraf's regime to avoid "a worse form of civil strife." Canada should heed this advice as well.

We urge that you take the action necessary to ensure that the people of Pakistan, and the thousands of Pakistani-Canadians who are watching in fear, can have hope that their loved ones will be safe.

We concur with a recent call from the International Trade Union Confederation for "the immediate restoration of the rule of law, the country's constitution and the fundamental democratic rights of its people". We hope you will take all diplomatic steps to make this happen.

Elections are planned for January 2008. These must take place on schedule. But martial law and the imprisonment of democratic opposition leaders will make a free and fair vote impossible. Emergency rule in Pakistan must end.

We look forward to your statement of support for an immediate return to democracy in Pakistan.

Yours truly,

PAUL MOIST
National President

cc: Hon. Stéphane Dion; Hon. Jack Layton; Hon. Gilles Duceppe
Pakistani High Commissioner to Canada; Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan
Ken Georgetti, President, Canadian Labour Congress
CUPE National Executive Board

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